

Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee Meeting

February 24, 2009

In Attendance: Group A - Troy Ziegler, Bruce Cole, Doug Westfall, Bart Wojceichowski, Jerry Hamilton; Group B - Hadley Roberts, Dick Hauff, Dan Mulick, Bert Doughty; Group C - Bob Cope, Mark Stauffer, Earl Skeen, Adrienne Trapani, Replacement Member: Richard Smith.

Forest Service: Forest Supervisor/DFO - Bill Wood, RAC Coordinator Kent Fuellenbach, Rangers - Chris Grove, Kimberly Nelson, Karen Dunlap

Note Taker: Mardi Rhodes

Review January 21, 2009 Notes

- Did we find out if we can carryover any monies that were leftover? Did not find out. Kent will find out.
- Bart motioned to approve minutes of January 21, 2009 – Hadley Roberts second. All in favor – minutes approved with amendments.

Agenda Review

- There is a lot of general type work to do today, not specific. RAC received numerous projects, but not likely to get to all this meeting.

Forest Supervisor Update

- Read letter of resignation from Norma Kossler
- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
 - Passed around the Press Release from the Salmon-Challis National Forest
 - Many projects are multi-County. The spreadsheet only allows one County entry, so we opted to use the county with the highest unemployment rate (Lemhi).
 - The purpose of today's meeting is to screen the projects and develop a method to rank and prioritize projects

Comments from CIRAC Chair

- We need to get some thoughts, opinions and starting points from the group on how to deal with all of this money and so many projects.
 - The number one priority should be private sector jobs.
 - Roads and restoration
 - Weed control
 - Infrastructure development
 - Campground maintenance – there were significant campground projects submitted with the stimulus
 - Does anyone have any idea how much is spent in each county? The RAC has not kept track of that in the past.
 - Should not use it as a criteria

- We need to make sure to look hard at job opportunities
- There should be a certain amount of credence given to the project having something for the youth
- Get some volunteers involved
- Reminder that if we are actually looking at job creation and keeping jobs, these FS projects that are going to be done by FS road crew and other FS people, remember that those folks live and work here too and we need to support them.
- Emphasis on youth programs
- It's a Central Idaho Committee – not a COUNTY committee
- Stress additional employment for our communities
- Bart would like to see a project specifically for maintenance of allotments. Put permittees dollars in along with some RAC funds.
- How many proposals can we just absolutely kick out? Then focus on the other ones.
- The Forest Service proposals have YCC and YEP projects included
- Discussed the possibility of saying that we want to have a minimum or maximum percentage of funds to go to each category. The group agreed NOT to do it this way.
- We need to make sure to ensure sustainability on these projects. The good thing about RAC is that we can fund for maintenance in future years.
- Forest Service present a list of a few key words about the projects and the Committee could evaluate based on the criteria the group has established:
 - *Youth Programs*
 - *Private and Federal Employment*
 - *Partnerships to help stretch the dollars*
 - *Sustainability*
 - *Local Economy*

Youth Employment Program

- Steve Adams gave talk about the program
- Able to have partnerships with many agencies and private businesses
- Can use Department of Labor stimulus funds

Traditional Projects

To be approved off the top

- YCC – Lost River (\$15,300 – possible stimulus funding) and Challis-Yankee Fork/Middle Fork (\$20,000 – possible stimulus funding) – Bart moved, Dan second. Group A – approved. Group B – approved. Group C – approved.
 - If the crew number increases the RAC can approve more money to fund additional kids.
- Firewood projects in Lemhi (\$25,500), Butte (\$10,000) and Custer (\$20,000) Counties – Doug Westfall moved, Troy Ziegler second. Group A – approved. Group B – approved. Group C – approved.

- SNRA Steelhead season toilets and/or campground access to permanent toilets (\$6,000) – Doug Westfall motioned, Earl Skeen second. Group A – approved. Group B – approved. Group C – approved.

Tabled

- Porta Potties on Salmon River (\$12,000 – possible stimulus funding) – table until the next meeting

Forest Service Projects

- The Salmon-Challis NF has a list of about 75 projects to propose to the RAC totaling about \$3.8 million.
- Many of the projects were also submitted as part of the Forest's ARRA package so the forest will not be able to finalize the dollar amounts of the various requests until they hear which projects will be funded through ARRA.
- Forest will prioritize their list of proposals and sort the project using the RAC criteria. The projects will be presented at the next RAC meeting.

State, County, Public Projects

Mosquito Flat Dam & Appurtenances Repair and Rehab

- Mosquito Flat Water Users request \$20,000 RAC funding as part of this \$240,000 project to rehabilitate the embankment and associated structures which were installed in 1949. Project needs to be done this spring.
- The reservoir is located on National Forest System Lands and a popular Forest Service Campground is located nearby.
- RAC noted this project had been rejected earlier because the request for RAC funding was much larger and consisted of about 91% of the total project cost.
- Bruce Cole moved to approve, Troy Ziegler second. Group A – approved. Group B – approved. Group C – approved.
- Challis-Yankee Fork District will work with Mosquito Flat Water Users on this project.

Copper Basin Repeater

- Project rejected - does not fit the RAC criteria – No direct benefit to the resources of the Salmon Challis National Forest. General consensus for Kent to contact Fish and Game and inform them that the project will not move forward.

Salmon River Floodplain Stewardship Handbook

- Conservation Education. Indirect, not direct benefit to FS lands, resources. Bill Wood and Kent will pursue further.

Improving forest ecosystem health and soil productivity through the collection, propagation and out-planting of native plants

- Need more specific information. Kent will contact sponsor – CSI.

Idaho Project Learning Tree

- Conservation Education. Indirect, not direct benefit to FS lands. Bill Wood and Kent will pursue further.

Leesburg Stage Road Maintenance

- Need more specific information – Kent will have sponsor contact District Ranger.
- Concern about the steepness and condition of the route.

Other Forests Projects

SNRA Weed Projects and C-T Birch Creek Weed Project

- Earl will review

Project Preview Deadlines

- Kent noted that with the increase in funds available to the RAC there has been a large increase in the number of projects being submitted, particularly on the last day before and the morning of the RAC meetings. It is impossible to prepare these late projects for presentation to the RAC.
- RAC approved a deadline for project proposals of one week before the RAC meetings. Proposals received after the deadline will not be considered until the following meeting.

Next meeting March 20th unless the ARRA stimulus projects have not gone through. Kent will email RAC by March 16th – if no meeting March 20th next meeting will be second week in April. Challis at 10:00.

RAC Member Projects - New Submittals

Challis Golf Course

- Project is outside the scope of RAC criteria. No direct benefit to FS lands or resources.
- Kent notify Challis City and refer them to Karma Bragg – BPA for possible funding.

Challis High School Biological Treatment of Noxious Weeds

- High School will provide detailed description – Phase 2

Morgan Creek Drainage Cooperative Noxious Weed Project

- Provide detailed description – Phase 2

Deep & Mud Creek Fencing Project

- Wildhorse Cattle Assn.
- Provide detailed description – Phase 2

Trail Creek Rd. Dust Abatement

- Lost River Highway District
- Provide detailed description – Phase 2